

Attorney Docket No.: 915-418
Application No.: 10/019,745

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims as follows:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~1~~22, wherein in order to receive a desired set of services the user terminal determines a set of the serving network entities indicated as together providing that set of services and attempts to establish a connection with the serving network entities in the set via the intermediate network.
3. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the said indication is generated by the intermediate network.
4. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~1~~22 wherein the user terminal is capable of communicating by radio with the intermediate network.
5. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~1~~22 wherein the intermediate network is operable according to the universal mobile telecommunications system or a derivative thereof.
6. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the serving network entities are core networks.
7. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~22~~1, wherein the intermediate network is a radio access network.

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8. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the intermediate network is a universal mobile telecommunications system radio access network.

9. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~122~~, wherein said indication is transmitted to the user terminal during the establishment of a connection between the user terminal and the intermediate network.

10. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~122~~, wherein said indication is transmitted to the user terminal during establishment of a radio resource control connection between the user terminal and the intermediate network.

11. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~122~~, wherein said indication is transmitted to the user after establishment of the connection between the user terminal and the intermediate network.

12. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~122~~, wherein said indication is transmitted to the user terminal during a procedure of the intermediate network consequent on reallocation of equipment in the intermediate network serving the connection with the user terminal.

13. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said indication is transmitted to the user terminal in consequence of a serving radio network controller relocation.

14. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~122~~, wherein said indication is transmitted to the user terminal in consequence of a change in serving network entity.

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15. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~1~~22, wherein the intermediate network is capable of adjusting a number of paging areas according to a number of serving network entities.

16. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~1~~22, wherein at least one of the serving network entities is capable of providing for communications between the terminal and another telecommunications network.

17. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~1~~22, wherein at least one of the serving network entities is capable of providing for circuit switched communications between the terminal and another telecommunications network.

18. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~1~~22, wherein at least one of the serving network entities is capable of providing for packet switched communications between the terminal and another telecommunications network.

19. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~1~~22, wherein the intermediate network is capable of routing signals between the user terminal and one of the serving network entities.

20. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the intermediate network is capable of routing signals from the user terminal to a selected one of the serving network entities on the basis of a core network domain indicator.

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21. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the intermediate network includes a universal mobile telecommunications system radio network controller capable of performing said routing.

22. (Previously presented) A method of establishing a connection in a telecommunications system in which an intermediate network provides for communications between a user terminal and one or more of a plurality of serving network entities each capable of providing communications services to the user terminal by means of at least one telecommunications protocol, the method comprising the steps of:

the intermediate network transmitting to the user terminal an indication of the communications services provided by each one of the serving network entities;

the user terminal selecting one or more of the communication services; and

establishing for each user terminal for each serving network entity with which that terminal is registered an instance of a management process for informing a respective serving network entity of changes in a connection path to a respective through the intermediate network,

whereby on a change in the connection path to the user terminal through the intermediate network, each serving network entity is informed of the change by means of the respective instance.

23. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 22, comprising the step of, in consequence of said indication of serving network entities and the communications services provided by each one, establishing a further instance of the management process for informing a respective serving network entity of changes in the connection path to the user terminal through the intermediate network.

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24. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 22, comprising the step of, in consequence of the said indication of serving network entities and the communications services provided by each one, terminating an instance of the management process for informing a respective serving network entity of changes in the connection path to the user terminal through the intermediate network.

25. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 23, comprising the step of, in consequence of said indication of serving network entities and the communications services provided by each one, modifying an instance of the management process for informing a respective serving network entity of changes in the connection path to the user terminal through the intermediate network.

26. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the management process is a mobility management process.

27. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the management process is operable in accordance with a mobility management protocol.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously presented) A telecommunications system comprising:

a user terminal;

one or more serving network entities each capable of providing communications services to the user terminal by means of at least one respective telecommunications protocol; and

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an intermediate network providing for communications between the user terminal and one or more of the serving network entities, and capable of transmitting to the user terminal an indication of the serving network entities and the communications services provided by each one; and

a processing apparatus capable of for each user terminal establishing for each serving network entity with which that terminal is registered an instance of a management process for informing a respective serving network of changes in a connection path to a respective user terminal through the intermediate network,

whereby on a change in the connection path to the user terminal through the intermediate network, each serving network entity is informed of the change by means of the respective instance.

30-32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently amended) A method of establishing a connection in a telecommunications system in which an intermediate network provides for communications between a user terminal and one or more of a plurality of serving network entities each capable of providing communications services to the user terminal by means of at least one telecommunications protocol, the method comprising the step of

the intermediate network transmitting to the user terminal an indication of the serving network entities and the communications services provided by each serving network entity,

the user terminal selecting one or more of the communication services; and

establishing for each user terminal for each serving network entity with which that terminal is registered an instance of a management process for informing a respective serving network entity of changes in a connection path to a respective through the intermediate network.

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whereby on a change in the connection path to the user terminal through the intermediate network, each serving network entity is informed of the change by means of the respective instance.

34. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 33, wherein the user terminal is a mobile phone.

35. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 33, wherein the serving network entities are logically defined in a manner that allows the number of logical serving network entities to differ from the number of physical network entities.

36. (Currently amended) A network element for providing for communications between a user terminal and one or more of a plurality of serving network entities each capable of providing communications services to the user terminal by means of at least one telecommunications protocol, the network element being arranged to transmit to the user terminal an indication of the serving network entities and the communications services provided by each serving network entity, said network element comprising a processing apparatus capable of for each user terminal establishing for each serving network entity with which that terminal is registered an instance of a management process for informing a respective serving network of changes in a connection path to a respective user terminal through the intermediate network,

whereby on a change in the connection path to the user terminal through the intermediate network, each serving network entity is informed of the change by means of the respective instance.

37. (Previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 36, wherein the network element is a radio network controller.

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38. (Currently amended) A method of establishing a connection in a telecommunications system in which a network element provides for communications between a user terminal and one or more of a plurality of serving network entities each capable of providing communications services to the user terminal by means of at least one telecommunications protocol, the method comprising the step of

the network element transmitting to the user terminal an indication of the serving network entities and the communications services provided by each serving network entity,

the user terminal selecting one or more of the communication services; and

establishing for each user terminal for each serving network entity with which that terminal is registered an instance of a management process for informing a respective serving network entity of changes in a connection path to a respective through the intermediate network,

whereby on a change in the connection path to the user terminal through the intermediate network, each serving network entity is informed of the change by means of the respective instance.

39. (Currently amended) A network element for providing for communications between a user terminal and one or more of a plurality of serving network entities each capable of providing communications services to the user terminal by means of at least one telecommunications protocol, the network element having means configured to transmit to the user terminal an indication of the serving network entities and the communications services provided by each serving network entity, said network element comprising a processing apparatus capable of for each user terminal establishing for each serving network entity with which that terminal is registered an instance of a management process for informing a respective serving network of changes in a connection path to a respective user terminal through the intermediate network,

whereby on a change in the connection path to the user terminal through the intermediate network, each serving network entity is informed of the change by means of the respective instance.